

1849 around *Lachen* (*J.B.N.H.S.*, vol. xxix, p. 517); rather scarce, according to Blanford, on the Cho La Range; found in winter in the valleys and plains where they apparently migrate at the season. Equally at home on deep snow, grassy meadow, cultivated ground, or on barren plains. Numerous in Ladak from 10,000 ft. and upwards as much near villages as far away among rocky crags; mixing commonly with crows, ravens, pigeons on ploughed fields or irrigated land. While in search of food which is mostly secured on the ground, they set to work, in pairs or parties, probing their bills deep down into the earth. 'Seen about places where yaks have been herded, hunting for insects under the dung, but they also feed on berries and seeds' (Blanford). Call raucous, somewhat plaintive; 'wilder', easily arresting sportsman's attention (Adams). Flight wild, excited. Noisy, sociable and gregarious; feeding, flying and sometimes breeding in colonies or congregations. Trial of strength not unfrequent, usually between two male birds, when whichever gets the worse of the encounter has the ill luck of being molested with extra pecks of a Jungle-crow. Flocks circle at immense height, then with closed wings down come the birds, one after another in swift slanting swoop. Not wary; observed in higher altitudes to come and roost under the eaves of the houses. Nest-construction begins in March; eggs not unusual in April, and young noticed in the first week of May. The nest is built of twigs, with wool lining, and placed in clefts of rocks; but in Tibet frequently in Tibetan houses, sometimes in holes in the walls only a few feet from the ground, usually the same site being occupied year after year. Osmaston records nests built in small holes excavated in sandstone cliffs by the birds themselves, about 2 to 4 ft. deep; consisting entirely of a thick pad of hair with no substratum of sticks. Eggs usually 3 or 4 in number constituting a clutch, are 'like those of the English birds, but much duller and brownish in tint and they average much bigger, 41.7×28.4 mm. against 40.7×27.9 mm.' (Stuart Baker). The maxima, recorded by Mr. Frank Ludlow, of 17 eggs (*Ibis* 1928, p. 54) are 48.5×27.5 and 47.5×29.25 mm.

50, KAILAS BOSE STREET,
CALCUTTA,
August 28, 1930.

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XVI.—NOTES ON THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA :
BIRDS, CHIEFLY WITH REFERENCE TO THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES.

411. **Southern Red-whiskered Bulbul.** *Otocompsa emeria fuscicaudata*: In the Central Provinces this bird is more addicted to forests than the vicinity of gardens and cultivation. I have only met with it in the former.

433. **The White-browed Bulbul.** *Pycnonotus luteolus*: Stated to be rare or absent throughout the Central Provinces. This is true to some extent but it is rather plentiful at Kamptee where it breeds freely

and whence several nests have been taken. At Nagpur it now and then visits gardens and has been observed breeding as well.

588. **The White-throated Ground Thrush.** *Geocichla citrina cyanotis*. This bird is resident in the C. P. and has been observed breeding in the districts of Chanda, Balaghat, Chhindwara and Bhandara.

Vol. II, page 175, line 3 from bottom :—'Wing 4.77 to 4.76 mm.' should probably read inches.

617. **The Purple Thrush.** *Cochoa purpurea*. *Habits*. Four birds whose stomachs I examined had fed largely on small land molluscs.

700. **The White-browed Fantail Flycatcher.** *Rhipidura aureola aureola* : *Nidification*—line 4 from bottom 'the bottom of the nest is prolonged into a cone and sometimes furnished with a long thin tail of loose scraps of grass.' This is more characteristic of the nests of *R. pectoralis* and I do not think I have ever seen it in *aureola*. *Habits* :—*R. aureola* and *R. pectoralis* feed largely on the Jassids *Idiocerus clypealis*, Leth. and *I. niveosparsus*, Leth. which adhere to the trunks of mango trees in enormous numbers, and its display with its fan-like tail seems a means for distributing these insects which are snapped up the moment they take to their wings. This genus of *flycatchers* is perhaps the most specialized of the group in this direction.

703. **The White-throated Fantail Flycatcher.** *Rhipidura a. albicollis*. The distribution of this species is given as 'The Himalayas from Murree to Eastern Assam, Burma, Shan States, Yunnan, Annam, Siam, Cochin China, Hainan and Malay States,' yet a little above we read 'Birds from the southern Punjab, Central Provinces and Chota Nagpur (presumably places where it is not found) are very rusty below, probably because they are all young birds.'

733. **The Scarlet Minivet.** *Pericrocotus speciosus speciosus*. *Distribution*: Oates in the old edition gave the distribution of this species as practically throughout the Himalayas, East Assam, U. P., Chota Nagpur and Central Provinces as far south as Bastar and Jaypur; but in the new edition its range is limited to the Himalayas, Assam, North of the Brahmaputra and eastwards to Yunnan. It is certainly found in the Central Provinces and it may be a resident. I have secured or observed it in at least four districts (Balaghat, Bastar, Betul and Chhindwara) and Osmaston has observed it in a fifth (Pachmarhi, Hoshangabad District). The latest date recorded is 21st April.

738. **The Small Minivet.** *Pericrocotus brevirostris brevirostris*. *Vernacular name* : *Raja Lal* is the common Hindi name for this species in Northern India.

744. **The Rosy Minivet.** *Pericrocotus roseus roseus*. *Distribution* : I have taken two specimens in the Central Provinces at Nagpur, one in December and the other on 2nd April.

1021. **The White-beaked Munia.** *Uroloncha striata striata*. Extends North in the C. P. as far as Chanda and Bhandara.

1124. **The White-capped Bunting.** *Emberiza stewarti*. This bird is a winter visitor or straggler to the C. P. I took a specimen on 1-12-1913 at Nagpur.

1133. **The Black-headed Bunting.** *Emberiza melanocephala*. This bird has also been taken at Nagpur on 20-3-1919.

1339. **The Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker.** *Picus vittatus myrmecophaneus*. This wood-pecker is found sparingly in the Baster State and I have also taken it in the Balaghat District.

1500. **The Rosy-ringed Paroquet.** *Psittacula krameri manillensis*: Among the few skins of this bird in the Museum, one young male has the lower mandible entirely red as in *P. k. borealis*; an adult male has the under-surface of the lower mandible red, but it is dark at the sides. A female has it dusky but not black.

1783. **The Himalayan Grey-headed Fishing Eagle.** *Ichthyophaga humilis plumbeus*. This bird wanders further south than Lucknow in the winter. Specimens were taken by Mr. A. Donald at Kolkaz, Sipnachadi, in the Melghat (Amraoti District) in January 1913. One of these was presented to the Museum.

1819. **The Indian Crested Honey-Buzzard.** *Pernis ptilorhynchus ruficollis*. According to the key for the species of *pernis* on page 165, all birds taken at Nagpur have the black subterminal and medium bands much narrower than the paler bands and would fall under *P. apivorus*. This, however they are not for three specimens have a wing of 400 mm. one of 405 mm. and the largest 421 mm.

1847. **The Indian Green Imperial Pigeon.** *Muscadivora ænea sylvatica*. The Green Imperial Pigeon is found in the Central Provinces in the South Chanda district and in the Bastar State, extending North to Kanhargaon and Katori. A female from the Chanda district had a wing of 225 mm. and a male from the Bastar State had a wing of 220 mm. I think I have heard this bird further north either in the Balaghat or Bilaspur district, but am not certain.

1852. **The Emerald Dove.** *Chalcophaps indica indica*. Occurs in the sal forests of the Balaghat district.

1942. **The Aravalli Spur-Fowl.** *Galloperdix spadicea caurina*. The spur-fowls from Asirgarh in the Nimar district are much greyer than the spur-fowls of Chanda and elsewhere and appear to belong to this race or are near it.

2066. **The Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.** *Larus argentatus cachinnans*. I have taken this gull on the Mahanady in the Bilaspur district. *L. brunnicephalus* has also been taken at Nagpur in June.

2120. **The Eastern Golden Plover.** *Pluvialis dominicus fulvus*. I have taken the Eastern Golden Plover on the Mahanady at Chandrapur in the Bilaspur district. They were in a flock of about 30 birds.

2213. **The Smaller Adjutant.** *Leptoptilos javanicus*. The Smaller Adjutant is resident in the Central Provinces where it keeps to the well-watered and thinly populated parts. I have met it in the Nagpur, Balaghat and Bilaspur districts.

2242. **The Lesser Flamingo.** *Phœniconaias minor*. A specimen was shot on the Ambajheri tank at Nagpur on the 9th June 1912, it was along with a large flock of *Phœnicopterus ruber*. In the winter of the same year many of these birds were being hawked about for sale. On 29th June 1925 I also observed a flock of Lesser Flamingos flying over Nagpur.